

## Reference Services

- Reference answered 318 reference questions in March, booked 297 meeting rooms, assisted 134 patrons with technology, and advised 21 patrons on reading choices.
- Reference staff hosted 14 programs in March, including *King Lear* with Stephen Collins and Poornima Kirby, sponsored by the Friends. Other highlights included a talk by Minute Man National Park Ranger Nikki Walsh on drinking culture in Colonial America and a discussion with The Robbins House on the "Women of the Great Field". In honor of Women's History, the Library hosted a series of weekly author talks with the Concord Women Authors on playwriting, biographies, creative nonfiction, short stories, poetry, and playwriting.
- The Tuesday book discussion group discussed *Pnin*, by Vladimir Nabakov. The Cookbook Club created recipes from the *Skinnytaste* cookbooks.



## Youth Services

### Teen Lounge

- Teen ran 8 programs in March with a total attendance of 51 (48 Teens and 2 parents meeting Brainfuse). Average daily use of the room holds in the 20's.
- Weekly Dungeons and Dragons once again hit critical player mass, and so we have added sessions all over the calendar to try to accommodate more players. April will serve as an ongoing experiment to see who fits best where, but going forward D&D may be run up to 3 times a week!
- After our "Meet the PS4" program, several teens gave suggestions on how best to use the console in the room, and were even kind enough to donate games for in-house use by all patrons.
- Robot Fight Club has found its footing as a popular offering thanks to the Workshop. Teens have even been coming in to work on their robots outside of program time!
- The Teen Librarian was able to obtain free entry into the Anime Boston convention for the "Anime and Manga in Libraries" series. Panels included advice on curating outside of the usual popular titles, collecting "light novels" for reluctant readers, manga content evaluation tools developed by and for librarians, digital resources for manga, recommended publishers and titles, and how to encourage appreciation of eastern style comics and animation in the library. It was full of valuable tools, links, and advice.

### Children's Library

- Children's staff enjoyed partnering with local organizations to provide special programs to the community in March. Avery from Gaining Ground joined us for the annual tapping of the maple trees on our front lawn, and she also gave an educational presentation on the process of making maple sap into syrup. Later in the month, we also partnered with Concord Children's Center to host Thelma Ramirez from Harvard University. She joined us in the Goodwin Forum for a presentation on the importance of early relational health in early childhood education.

- Weekly storytimes continue to be popular offerings at the Children’s Library, and the team is looking forward to some special guest readers in the coming months! Musical Monday has also continued to fill the Forum, and in March we welcomed artists including Shon and Jared from Rockabye Beats. Shon brought a special instrument that looks like a music note called an otamatone. After the Rockabye Beats concert, kids were able to touch and play the otamatone themselves.
- Children’s also offered several fun STEAM projects in March, including kids learning about the human body by making a robot hand from paper and straws (and checking out a 3D model printed with the Library’s 3D printers!) and, of course, decorating their very own eclipse glasses to celebrate the upcoming eclipse!



**Circulation**

- Circulation had 17,180 transactions and welcomed 79 new patrons to the CFPL family. The Minuteman Library Network activity for the past quarter shows circulation loaned 27,721 items to network patrons and borrowed 16,309 items for Concord patrons.
- Patrons reserved 161 museum passes, with the New England Aquarium in first place by a significant margin, followed by the Museum of Fine Arts and the Museum of Science.
- The significantly updated Library of Things launched and circulation of these items has been very active. The games and puzzles are also flying off their displays!
- Circulation staff continues their involvement with professional development and the CFPL’s Sustainability initiatives.
- Circulation staff created book displays with the topics “Plan Your Garden” and “Mad About Sports.”



**Fowler Library**

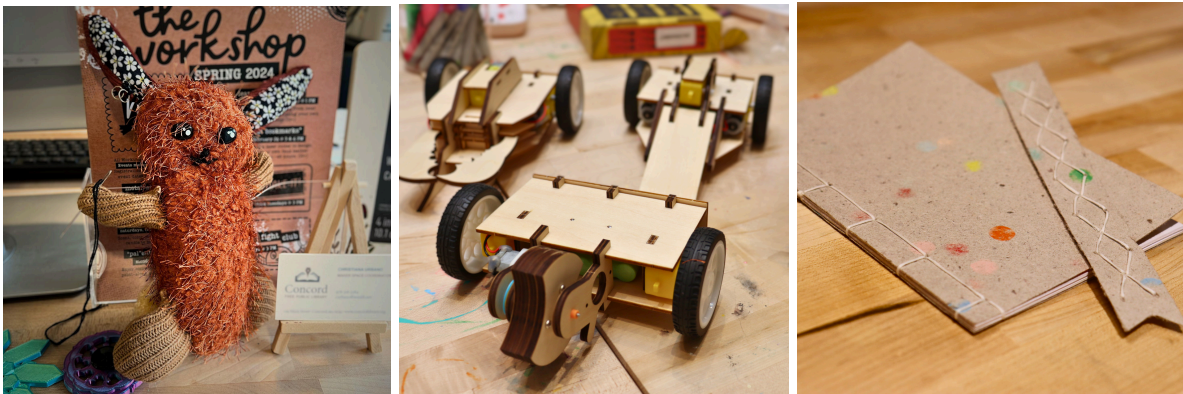


- In March, Art for All led workshops to create signs celebrating pollinators and native plants. These “Signs of Life” are for use in yards to explain the shift away from lawns. Some pollinators will be part of the Spring into West Concord (5/18) scavenger hunt and will eventually live on the fence by Fowler’s pollinator garden.



- ArtScape at Bradford Mill installed Fowler’s first community art show of 2024, Art in Bloom. Over 50 artists of all ages shared their work, which has been in turn enjoyed by patrons of all ages. Fowler had a well-attended after hours opening on 3/21.
- Concord Children’s Center and Concord Family Network led Literacy and Littles, reintroducing and updating a pre-Covid event. Literacy experts provided valuable support for the attending families.
- Community members led a joyous Ramadan Saturday Studio.
- Many hands made light work during the annual Seed Packing Party, and already many seeds have been claimed by excited gardeners.
- The CCHS Green Team started Earth Month early with a storytime focused on Green Routes to School. Mothers Out Front provided support and also led their third monthly Sustainability Studio, an introduction to tree care in anticipation of the tree seedling giveaway during Cooler Concord on 4/20.
- Adding to Fowler’s ongoing Take and Makes, staff and volunteers prepared Book Seeds for April 1.

## Innovation & Communications



- The Workshop held its first meeting of Library (Robot) Fight Club - a teen-friendly combat robotics group.
- A wide range of Earth Month-themed events are upcoming in April, including hand-recycled paper and upcycled stuffed animal sewing.

## Technical Services

- In February and March, Tech Services ordered, cataloged and processed a total of 1,017 new titles and added them to the Library collections.
- Tech Services staff continued to participate in the Library Green Team meetings and activities to promote sustainability.
- Tech Services continued to support the public services by working shifts at the Reference Desk, Circulation Desk and Children’s Desk.

## Special Collections

- Special Collections served 114 patrons and researchers and answered 80 reference requests on-site, via phone, and email.
- Staffer Eve completed processing the Damon Family Collection and is now working on the Munroe Family Collection.
- Special Collections prepared to support the April 9th Art Jury where a panel of local artists will select the art to be on exhibition in the Munroe Gallery in 2025.
- Recent programs and outreach include a Concord History Guide course, a meet-the-artist reception in the Munroe Gallery, and author talk from James Marcus, discussing his new title about Ralph Waldo Emerson.

- Special Collections is currently displaying 29 of Merrill's original drawings from the Collection alongside the 1880 version of Little Women. Patrons can view the drawings in the exhibition cases in the Connector between the Goodwin Forum and the Commons.
- Special Collections is excited about upcoming lectures in April, including [Concord, There Is More To Our Story](#) and [The Natural History of Well Meadow with Ron McAdow](#), as well as "A Personal History of the 1960s" with Doris Kearns Goodwin.



## Administration and Staffing

- The Library welcomed two substitute maintenance custodians, Jorge Gomez and Ted Noke. Both Jorge and Ted work at the Concord Public Schools and are well versed in providing maintenance and custodial services in public buildings.
- This month the Concord Free Public Library submitted its application to become a Certified Sustainable Library through the [Sustainable Libraries Initiative](#). This effort was 3 years in the making and marks a particularly large achievement on behalf of the Library Staff, the Library Corporation, and many of the Library's partners. The Sustainable Library Initiative certification process connected the CFPL with an award-winning, comprehensive community of practice that has supported the Library in completing or progressing on many of the goals in the [Library's Sustainability Plan](#).
- The Library also posted its spring issue of the Sustainability Newsletter, [Climate Corner](#), which highlights many of the sustainability programs and initiatives underway.